GUIDE TO THE AW5 COORG FILE

[This file contains material on the former state of Coorg in southwestern India. A small mountainous region, it is bounded on the north and east by Mysore and on the south and west by Madras. In 1951, the population of Coorg was about 229,405. The Coorg or Kodagu, make up about a third of it. The rest of the population is composed of other tribes, such as the Yerava, and other language groups, castes and religions. Hindus account for about 90% of the population; all Coorgs are Hindu. Another 8% are Moslems, almost 2% are Christians and there are a few Jains, Buddhists, and Parsis. All of the important languages are Dravidian. This includes Kodagi, the Coorg dialect; Kannada, the dialect used for dealings between tribes; Malayalam, Tulu, and Yerava. Hindustani and English are not uncommon, and educated Coorgs usually speak Kodagi, Kannada and English. There are also a number of Tamil speakers. The great majority of the population live in dispersed villages and cultivate the land for subsistence. There are only two towns in Coorg, which in 1931, contained about 6% of the population.

There are 4 sources in the Coorg file. 1: Srinivas is the most up to date (1952). It is a study of the relation between Coorg religion and social structure, but many additional data are presented and it is probably the best basic source. 2: Emeneau is a study of marriage ceremonial and kinship organization. 3: Iyer is a brief general ethnographic description containing everything from flora and fauna, to divorce, house-types and anthropometry. 4: Richter

(1870) is one of the basic sources to which other Coorg studies refer. It is by a missionary with 14 years residence among the Coorg. It covers geography, ethnography, culture history, and the Coorg under British administration. This file is not extensive, but provides data on a people isolated from much of India's life and culture who have selectively chosen from it what they wished. The file was processed between 1955 and 1968.]